



## TESTIMONY FOR SB0341

### Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act)

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Brooks

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0341 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members are all hating their utility bills these days. Marylanders have been taken to the cleaners by the very entities that were supposed to manage the grid and ensure that they made good investments that would not spike utility rates and line the pockets of the utilities. Given the complete failure of the PSC to invest in solar and other clean energy sources, we now need to take matters into our own hands.

This bill, if enacted, would phase out the current solar subsidy program and replace it with a new program that would require the Public Service Commission (PSC) to conduct competitive procurements for utility scale solar and ensure that the new systems are built with the best value for rate-payers. It will also require the PSC to establish incentive prices for rooftop and community solar. All of this will be achieved without costing additional increases for rate payers because the Alternative Compliance Payments that have already been paid by rate payers will be put into an escrow account used to implement this new solar model.

Also, this bill would incentivize portable solar - compact portable systems that plug directly into a standard outlet and require no rooftop installation. Portable solar systems feed power into the home to offset consumption, reducing household electricity bills and, when paired with a battery, offer energy resilience to households. This would help many Marylanders who cannot invest in traditional rooftop solar, particularly renters, lower-income households, and homeowners with shaded or otherwise unsuitable roofs. It would put new, clean energy into the grid and into people's homes.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.